

THE AMHERST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NEWSLETTER

121 North Pleasant Street, P.O. Box 502, Amherst Massachusetts 01004

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Important Information

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Contact for an appointment.

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Summer office hours: 9:00 A.M.-12:00 noon

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

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MEET REV. STEVE

On Wednesday, August 8th, Rev. Steve will hold informal office hours from 2:00-5:00 P.M.

A note from the Rev.: "... I just want to begin to get to know people and especially to hear your thoughts, dreams and visions for the Society. These will inform our work together in the year ahead. I look forward to meeting you!

With every good wish,

Rev. Steve"

NEWSLETTER

Copy Editor: Janis Gray, 413-259-1584
Production Editor: John Foster, 413-253-2632
Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month.
Please sign submissions, so we may reach you if we have questions. Submit entries by email to jsgrey@crocker.com, or mail it to 219 Wendell Road, Shutesbury MA 01072. Please limit entries to 500 words (100 for the "For Your Information" section). Submissions may be edited to save space or to maintain a consistent style. Thank you!

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Schedule of Services

Sunday, August 5, 10:30 A.M. – *An Exclusive Interview with Margaret Fuller*

Elizabeth Alcaide, Actor and Carol Rothery, Lay Leader

Join us to hear Margaret Fuller discuss her extraordinary life with Carol Rothery. Born in Boston in 1810, Margaret was considered one of the most brilliant minds in New England by the time she had reached her twenties. A respected colleague of Thoreau and Emerson, she was the only female member of the Transcendentalist Club and later became the editor of Club's journal, *The Dial*. After a stint as a reporter for the New York *Tribune*, she traveled to Europe as a foreign correspondent to cover the 1848 revolution in Italy. Ms. Fuller will also discuss her best-selling book, *Women in the Nineteenth Century*.

Sunday, August 12, 10:30 A.M. – *These Are My People*

The Rev. John Pastor, Speaker and Betsey Johnson, Lay Leader

We are all a part of the stories of local and global suffering, triumphs of the spirit, and challenges of the heart. In all the many ways that we are in relationship with each other we are together as a people. "These are my people" is a mantra of interconnectedness, understanding, and compassion.

Sunday, August 19, 10:30 A.M. – *The Search for an American Identity: Creating a Usable Past*

Betty Romer, Speaker and Bob Romer, Lay Leader

At the beginning of the 19th century a new nation sought ways to create a sense of nationhood among its various parts. Our speaker returns to the pulpit this morning to describe the part played by the arts in forging a sense of American Identity.

Betty Romer is a docent at the Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield. Her work involves tours for adults at the Museum and in the community as part of the Museum's Outreach Program.

Sunday, August 26, 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. – *Congregational Pancake Breakfast*

Some of the men of our UU Society will prepare and serve a delicious breakfast to the congregation. Let's celebrate this Sunday by breaking "bread" with each other. The fellowship of a meal together will serve as our worship. A donation is requested at the door to cover expenses.

Many sermons and readings are posted on our website, www.uusocietyamherst.org. Click on the "SERMON ARCHIVE" button on the right side of the home page, and then on the title of the sermon you wish to read.

Dedicated Offerings

Dedicated Offerings provide a way for our Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst community to recognize and financially support projects that reflect our guiding Unitarian-Universalist principles. One Sunday a month from September through May, we donate the proceeds from our collection basket to a worthy organization engaged in this work. Through the amazing and continued generosity of our congregation, we raised \$10,201 in FY2018 to help fund nine different organizations:

- North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (Hurricane Harvey relief)
- Breast Center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital
- Amherst Survival Center
- Sanctuary Fund at First Congregational Church in Amherst (two times)
- Amherst Community Connections
- CoolCap
- Voices from the Inside
- Martin Luther King Jr. Family Services

Dedicated Offerings are suggested by both individuals and committees of the Society, and the program is managed by the Minister and the Dedicated Offering Committee. Our goal is to cover a wide range of areas of need in our area and in the larger world, including these categories: local, regional, national, international, environ-

mental, medical, educational, animal rights, arts/music/culture, and different ages and genders. Forms for suggesting recipients are available in the Meetinghouse office.

Thank you for showing your support for the Dedicated Offering program, not only with your contributions to the DO recipients themselves, but also with your contributions to the Society on other Sundays when our budget counts on those receipts. Remember that no one is required to contribute to our Dedicated Offering recipients – this is a voluntary initiative.

We received a letter from First Congregational Church in Amherst following our May Dedicated Offering. Doris D. Peterson, Treasurer, wrote, “Your gift is deeply appreciated and helps make it possible for us to provide needed support for Sanctuary expenses and for Lucio Perez and his family while he is in sanctuary with us. Thank you very much for your generous gift.”

Congratulations to Rebecca Fricke!

Our Board of Trustees has received the following from the Unitarian Universalist Association:

Dear Leaders from the UU Society of Amherst and Beyond.

On behalf of the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee, I’m delighted to notify you that I have awarded Rebecca Fricke the status of Credentialed Religious Educator – Associate Level.

Rebecca completed a program of professional development and demonstrated her mastery of many competency areas deemed essential for quality religious education leadership. She displayed her skills and knowledge through a comprehensive portfolio, book reflections, personal statements, and a self-assessment. Rebecca’s credentialing work affirms her ability to promote excellence in faith development in the life of a congregation.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations greatly appreciates the fine work that Rebecca does as a religious educator within and beyond your congregation. Thank you for supporting strong religious education programming and for continuing to nurture Rebecca’s leadership.

- Jan Garner, UUA Credentialing Coordinator

Religious Education Ministry



RE Child Care Available During Summer Services **Jacy Armenti** will be providing child care during the hours of service on the following dates: 8/5, 8/12 and 8/19. Children of all ages are welcome. Please bring children directly to the RE Classroom B. There will be activities and games available for all ages, including structured investigations and questions to solve every week. Every child will have their voice heard, be part of the community and have fun! If there is no childcare, fidget toys and art supplies are available for children to use during the service. On 8/26 there will be a pancake breakfast for everyone!

Volunteer one Sunday to RE between September and June? I am looking for people willing to volunteer one Sunday to the RE program. Come with a plan or ask me for one and I will be happy to assign you a role. Lessons can include reading your favorite story, doing an art project, watching a short video and leading a discussion, theater – the children have open minds! Please contact me – Rebecca Fricke at dre@uusocietyamherst.com or 413-687-8722. Thank UU.

Rebecca Fricke
Director of Religious Education

Introducing our Office Administrator

Lea Douville is a long-time resident of Amherst, having moved to the Pioneer Valley to attend college over 20 years ago. Excepting two years of living in London, she has called Amherst home ever since. She is grateful to have raised her children in a town that tries to live its progressive values — and has long admired the UUSA for its prominent place amongst these efforts. Lea is deeply curious, is a huge fan of podcasts, and loves traveling as a way of understanding how the world works — so far she has logged over 20 countries from Argentina to Turkey.



She lives with her husband, composer Richard Beaudoin, and their three children: two human — Celia and Louis — and one feline, Cooper.

Social Events

The Women's Lunch Group meets every other Thursday at noon for spirited conversation over local, inexpensive cuisine. Our first August luncheon (August 9) will be at Esselon Café, 99 Russell Street, Hadley (<https://www.esselon.com/cafe/>). We welcome every woman, whether she is new to our Society or a longer-time member or friend. It is not necessary to RSVP, but if you have questions or want to be on the e-notification list, contact **Sophie Rogers** at sophiesailing@gmail.com or 413-772-9814.

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 A.M. at Kelly's Restaurant (314 College Street, Amherst). Contact **Michael Sussman** at msussma@music.umass.edu for details.

Congregational Pancake Breakfast On Sunday, August 26, some of the men of our UU Society will gather in the kitchen to prepare a congregational breakfast. Breakfast is served in the Willie Eaton Social Hall from 10:00 -11:30 A.M. A small donation is requested at the door.

Our Caring Ministries



Dear friends,

Amidst the summer activities we all enjoy, let us take time to consider the words below, written by Reverend Dana McLean Greeley. He was a Unitarian minister, the last president of the American Unitarian Association and, upon its merger with the Universalist Church in America in 1961, the founding president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

REVERENCE FOR LIFE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

I myself believe in reverence for life, in the rose and in the robin-red-breast. And how much more do I believe in reverence for life in people. Human dignity is self-respect and respect for others. Human dignity is courage in the face of adversity. Human dignity is integrity and poise amid temptation and turmoil. Human dignity is uprightness and cleanness. Human dignity is unselfishness. Human dignity is patience and kindness and love.

Do you and I not affirm that there is a divine spark in every one of us born of a celestial origin, and of the life-process itself, working through eons and eons of time? The Book of Proverbs asserts that "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord," and that candle can never go out! If God said, Let there be light, He also said Let there be that candle, and no darkness shall extinguish it! We need constantly to discover and to appreciate that dignity in other people, in every other person. Can we not revere the dignity in all people, the Christ-spirit? And can we not be true, in life and in death, to the dignity...that is in us?

Rev. Dana McLean Greeley

December 6, 1981

Our minister, Caring Circle, and Pastoral Care Team are all available to help during difficult times.

OUR CARING CIRCLE coordinator is **Catharine Porter**. Please contact her or your own Caring Person for rides, food, and simple needs. Other Caring Circle members are **Linda Callahan, Sue Kelly, Karen Mack, Martha Nelson, Susan Rice, Chas Stevenson, Lynn Sussman** and **Gordon Wyse**.

OUR PASTORAL CARE TEAM co-coordinators are **Mary Wyse** and **Pete Rogers**. Other members are **The Reverend Elizabeth Alcaide, Charlie Atwood, Mary Herman, Rob Fuderich, Bo Mack** and **Fran Plumer**. Please contact one of them for more complex or personal needs.

From your minister, Caring Circle, Pastoral Care Team, and Small Groups.

We send our joyful thoughts to **John and Susan Barbaro, Paula Costain, Courtney Gordon, Janis Gray, Gene Herman, Vickie Hinson-Smith, Carolyn Holstein, Lois Kackley, Helene Lambert, Elizabeth Lindquist-Cock, Cindy and John McLean, Rachael Peterson, Fran Plumer** and **George Sulzner** and family, and **Anne Louise White** for healing, wholeness, and peace.



Social Action

Sanctuary Lucio Perez has been in sanctuary at **First Church Amherst** since **October** as he challenges his deportation order. This has been a very difficult time for him and his wife and four children. Lucio also sees himself as representing all the other immigrants who face the terror of family separation. Community members and members of 12 faith communities are providing essential help with rides for visiting for the Springfield-based family, 24/7 hour presence at First Church, and meals.

Members of our Society have been helping with meals. The week of June 25, **Lucy Blakely, Gabriela Horvay, Susan** and **Richard Roznoy, Maria Lydia Spinelli, Mary Latham, Sue** and **Elliot Kelly, Martha Nelson** and **Mary Beth Seminario** were privileged to provide varied dishes for this family. We will be bringing food again the week of September 17. In addition to these services, money is needed for both Lucio's legal defense (\$6,000 -8,000), and by First Church which is helping pay for Lucio's family's daily living expenses (\$2,000/month). Donations can be made to First Church at <http://tinyurl.com/ImSanctuaryFund> (tax deductible) or directly to Lucio and his family at www.gofundme.com/freeLucio (not tax deductible).

For information please contact Mary Beth Seminario, the UUSA representative to the Amherst cluster of the Interfaith Sanctuary & Solidarity Network, at mbsem@comcast.net or 413-253-0894.

UUs at Not Bread Alone On June 30, the fifth Saturday of the month, members of our Society volunteered their time to prepare a delicious lunch at Not Bread Alone. **Gabriela Horvay** and **Michael Cassidy** prepared a stir fry, turkey bolognese, tomato zucchini soup, frittata, huge green salad and cake with coconut frosting. **Karen Cassidy** also helped prepare dishes as well as helped **Mary Beth Seminario** organize donated produce for distribution to the guests after they ate. **Mary Latham, Pat Rector** and **Steve Ransford** helped serve the food which was enjoyed by all.

The following note was recently received by **Mary Beth Seminario**:

Dear Mary Beth,

Please accept our heartfelt, if belated, thanks and appreciation for the Unitarian Universalist Social Action Committee's co-sponsorship of the Race Amity Day Celebration on June 10. We are so grateful for your support of this event, the contribution of the Hall, Ted's opening words, and all of your, Ted's, Mary's, Pete's and others' help in setting up and cleaning up.

The message of this celebration, from all those who contributed to the event led by the Town of Amherst and Citizens for Race Amity Now, is that a foundation of the healing of racism is the daily, lived actions of "civility, respect, kindness and friendship" across racial, ethnic and cultural lines, informed by the fundamental "principle of the oneness of humankind." This message is at the heart of our actions and commitments.

With gratitude, Ash Hartwell on behalf of Ray Elliott and Citizens for Race Amity Now.

UUSA COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NEEDS YOU! The UUSA has been providing volunteers for the free Community Breakfast in the Willie Eaton Social Hall every Wednesday for three years. We serve 80-120 guests a freshly cooked hot meal of eggs, home fries, sausages, pastries, cereal, toast, juice and coffee or tea – all provided by Amherst’s Craig’s Doors. Our breakfast is important as the Amherst Survival Center, which is open other days, is closed on Wednesday. Our breakfast team works closely with Craig’s Doors, which helps people find ways to become empowered and improve the quality of their lives through the creation of safe, respectful shelter and housing. We regularly experience a shortage of volunteers both in the summer and the church year. Dishwashers and cleanup crew are especially difficult positions to fill, but many other jobs are also available. Contact **Clare Bertrand** at clarebertrand@gmail.com. She will send you a weekly email reminder with a link where you can see what positions are available for each week. For questions or more information contact Clare, or **Sophie Rogers**, sophiesailing@gmail.com.